

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of collaborating among team members of separate organizations over a first electronic network and a second electronic network,
5 the method comprising the steps of:
providing a virtual team room supported on a team room server, the team room server being coupled to each of the first electronic network and the second electronic network;
permitting access to the virtual team room to first team members via
10 the first electronic network only if the first team members are identified in a directory associated with the first electronic network; and
permitting access to the virtual team room to second team members via the second electronic network only if the second team members are identified in a directory associated with the virtual team room.
15
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first electronic network comprises a local area network.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first electronic network comprises
20 an Intranet.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second electronic network comprises an unsecured network.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the unsecured network comprises the Internet.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining the
5 virtual team using information provided by the team members.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the information includes identification
of at least one team leader.

10 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the information includes identification
of a team purpose.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the information includes identification
of sub-teams associated with the virtual team room.

15

10. A method of providing communication and collaboration among team members, wherein the team members include first members of a first group of members and second members of a second group of members, organizational disparate from the first members, the method comprising the

5 steps of:

providing a teamwork tool server supporting a team room environment, the teamwork tool server being coupled to the first members via a first network structure and to the second members by a second network structure;

providing a global directory coupled to the teamwork tool server

10 including an identification for each of the first members and the second members;

providing a local directory coupled to the teamwork tool server, the local directory including a team room user profile for each of a plurality of team room members, wherein the team room members are selected from the

15 first members and the second members;

receiving a request for access to the team room environment from one user of the first members and the second members;

verifying an identification for the one user in the global directory; and

20 permitting access to the team room environment according the team room user profile for the one user.

11. The method of claim 10, comprising accepting from the team members information and data.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the information comprises one of document information, issue information, task information, meeting information, calendar information and milestone information.

5 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the teamwork tool server is coupled to a security server, and wherein the step of verifying an identification is completed by the security server.

10 14. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of accepting information from the team members, and defining a structure of the team room environment in accordance with the information.

15 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the information comprises identification of a team leader and a team member.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the information is retained in the local directory.

20 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the information comprises association information, the association information defining an association between the team room environment and a project.

25 18. The method of claim 10, wherein the first network structure and the second network structure each comprises one of an unsecured network and a secured network.

